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Portland Man Found Guilty of Conspiring to Distribute Crack Cocaine

Portland, Maine: United States Attorney Paula D. Silsby announced today that yesterday afternoon a federal jury found Hussein Al-Rikabi, age 37, guilty of one count of conspiring to distribute and possess with intent to distribute cocaine base, also known as crack cocaine, and two counts of distribution of cocaine base.

According to the government's evidence introduced at trial, agents with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration conducted a court authorized wiretap of Al-Rikabi's telephone for over a month during the summer of 2007. During this time, agents intercepted several drug related telephone calls in which Al-Rikabi was arranging to deliver crack cocaine. Also during the period of interception, undercover agents conducted two purchases of crack cocaine from Al-Rikabi.

The Court has not yet set a sentencing date. Under federal law, and because of the quantity crack cocaine recovered, Al-Rikabi faces a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of five years and a maximum of forty years.

United States Attorney Silsby praised the investigative efforts of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency and the Passaic County Sheriff's Office in New Jersey.